

**From:** Dewitztom@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/7/01 10:55pm  
**Subject:** (no subject)

Dear sirs --

I have been repeatedly shocked by the concessions made to Microsoft in the proposed settlement of the current antitrust case. Microsoft's software involves little or no real innovation compared to the rest of the industry, yet costs 2-3x as much as comparable software products. Although I am forced to use the Microsoft operating system and office products because they are mandated by my employer ( a large multinational oil company with 100,000 employees worldwide), I believe MS Windows to be technically inferior to IBM's OS/2, Linux, UC Berkeley's BSD, Apple's OS-X, and Sun Microsystem's Solaris OS. Nevertheless, these other companies almost have to give away their software for free in order to compete with microsoft's monopoly.

The DOJ should show to the court that the need for compatibility, interoperability, and interchange of computer and communications software is so important that even a 70% market share is a tremendous advantage. And, as you know, Microsoft has used this advantage repeatedly to put potential competitors out of business and to extend its monopoly into new markets.

Do not underestimate the American public. We appreciate that a strong monopoly strengthens our dominance of foreign as well as domestic markets. Still, we know that we would benefit more in the long run from stronger controls on, or dilution of, the Microsoft monopoly than we will lose from increased international competition.

Please review the incredible, and obviously illegal, provisions of Windows XP for further regulatory actions under antitrust law.

We, the public, appreciate your work on this in the public interest.  
Thank you!

-- Thomas Dewitz, Ph.D., R.P.E (Texas)